COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BUDGET SESSION, 1119

Monday, *the* $\frac{\textit{24th July 1944}}{\textit{9th Karkadagam 1119}}$

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at half past Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (SIR GEORGE BOAG, K. C. I. E., C. S. I.) in the Chair.

Messrs. K. M. Ibrahim, C. Kunhan Nambudiripad, K. Ashtamoorthi Nambudiripad and the Advocate-General were absent.

SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS

Messrs. P. Sankaran Nambiar, Khan Sahib Muhammad Habi Buddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur, Thattil Kochuvareed and George Panikulam were sworn in.

OPENING SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President:

Hon'ble Members,

I bid you welcome to this Budget Session of the Legislative Council. We have a busy fortnight before us in which the principal duty which we shall be called upon to discharge will be the consideration of the demands for financial supply put forward by the Government in the Reserved and Transferred Departments. Hon'ble Members will have the opportunity of showing, both in the general discussion on the Budget and in the discussions on individual demands, what they think of the activities of the various departments and of the manner in which those activities are being carried on. I can give an assurance that any criticisms which Hon'ble Members level either against the policy of the Government or against the manner in which that policy is being executed will receive the most careful attention. I do not propose in this address to discuss the details of the Budget Estimates. The Finance Member later in today's proceedings will deal with these estimates in detail. I propose in the remarks which I shall now make rather to confine myself to a consideration of the effect which the war is having upon the economy of the State, to indicate how this impact is illustrated by the Budget figures, to consider a few of the more important measures for which financial provision is made, and finally to touch upon some of the problems connected with post-war reconstruction of the State's economy.

2. Before I proceed to these domestic concerns I shall, I think, do well to remind the House of the very great improvement in the war situation all over the world which has been brought about since I last addressed it seven months ago. The Russians, continuing their mighty blows at the German invaders during the winter, throughout the spring, and now into the summer, have practically thrown the Germans back over their frontiers and are within a measurable distance of the invasion of Germany itself. In Italy the last few weeks have seen the liberation of Rome and the steady advance along both coasts and through the mountains in the centre of Italy of American, British, Indian and Polish troops who are gradually driving the Germans northwards. In France we have seen a powerful British and American army landed in Normandy which has captured the important port of Cherbourg and is hammering at the strong German forces which are striving vainly to ward off the attack which grows ever stronger and stronger. So also in the war with Japan we have seen a determined attack on the north-east frontier of India, which at one time looked serious, thrown back with heavy losses. We have seen a force of American and Chinese troops in the north of Burma combine with that gallant force of Chindits to drive the Japanese from more than one of their strong positions. We have seen the Americans in the Pacific drawing tighter and closer the ring which encircles the Japanese fleets and armies. Everywhere the enemy is on the defensive ; and it has become obvious to all the world, not least to the enemy himself, that it is only a question of time before he is beaten to surrender.

3. Meanwhile, it is well for us to review from time to time the results of the impact of war conditions upon this State. There has first been a great demand for man power. From this State have gone something like 17,000 young men to join the fighting services. Many of them have been back on leave—some with great stories of their adventures at sea, in the air and

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on land in many countries. I have talked to more than one of these young men myself; and as I have talked to them I have felt that it is they who more truly than any one else are at the present moment maintaining the good name and reputation of this State and of its people. Then we still have a large number of labour battalions working—some in Assam and some in Ceylon. The demand for technicians still grows, and though a number of the smaller training centres in the State have been closed, the reason for this is not that the need for technicians has come to an end but simply the greater economy of training them in a few comparatively large establishments than in a number of small ones. And since my predecessor spoke on the Budget a year ago, the State Forces have been reorganised on modern lines, and though the number of recruits has not yet been sufficient to complete the Battalion for which sanction has been given, the First Company has so far completed its training that His Highness has been able to offer it for service under the Crown outside the State. This Company is shortly to leave the State for duty elsewhere in India, and I am sure it will take with it the good wishes of all Hon'ble Members of this Council. Many men have joined the Indian Army or Navy or Air Force, but this is the first unit which leaves the State as a State Force; and I am confident that whereever it may be called upon to serve it will maintain the good name and the high reputation of this State. Besides these various classes who have gone or are liable to go from the State to other parts of this country or abroad, we must also remember that a very large labour force is constantly employed on military works on and in the neighbourhood of Willingdon Island.

4. Not only has there been a great demand for man power, there has also been a great demand for material supplies. The most important, both in value and in quantity, has been timber. Throughout the year greater and greater demands have been made upon our forests, and the great increase in supply made for war purposes is reflected in the Budget figures, where Hon'ble Members will see that, as compared with the Budget Estimates for the year 1119 we now anticipate greater receipts from the Forest Department of no less than Rs. 9¾ lakhs, while there is likely to be and increased expenditure of Rs. 6·40 lakhs. We now expect the total receipts from the forests and tramway to amount to Rs. 22·66 lakhs while the expenditure is likely to be Rs. 14·82 lakhs, leaving a clear profit on the working of the forests of Rs. 7·84 lakhs for the year. I think the Conservator of Forests and his staff and establishment deserve a special word of congratulation on the manner in which they have responded to every demand that has been made upon them and for the very excellent results of the year's working. I should like to add that these greately increased war supplies have not destroyed or denuded our forests. They have provided a remunerative market for timber and other materials which but for the war would never have had a market at all. The war has helped the Forest Department to eliminate a great deal of inferior and undesirable growth and so to satisfy sylvicultural needs while at the same time earning a record revenue. From this point of view it may be considered that post-war forest development has actually been started during the currency of the war. A variety of other goods have also been provided for the Supply Department—furniture, packing cases, plywood, coir and coir goods, tiles, textiles, and a number of other articles too numerous to enumerate.

5. One effect of this great demand for man power and for goods has been to produce in the State large supplies of ready money. Men who have gone to the fighting services and men who have enlisted in labour units as a rule make considerable family allotments, so that their families receive regular monthly contributions. Those who are employed in producing the goods for which there is such a demand and the large force of labour employed on military works in the State are all receiving good wages; so that there is a larger amount of money in the hands of people than probably has ever been known before. At the same time, difficulties of transport, both by sea and by land, and the preoccupation of industry in all the allied countries with war orders, have reduced materially the supplies of goods available for purchase. More particularly is this the case with foodstuffs, of which this State with its teeming population used in times of peace to import such a very large proportion either from other parts of India or from overseas. Now the first result of the reaction between increased supplies of money and reduced supplies of goods has inevitably been a rise in prices—a rise in the cost of living—which has affected all classes of the population. As always happens in these conditions those who have goods to sell have prospered, while those with fixed incomes who have to buy the necessities of life have felt the pinch severely. So far as Government servants are concerned we have tried to help them by granting a dearness allowance. This allowance has twice during the last six months been raised and the allowance now given in the State approximates closely to that which is given both in Travancore and in the province of Madras. The mere grant of dearness allowance, however, would not of itself have enabled the people to whom it is granted to live unless effective measures had also

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been taken to procure supplies of food stuffs and the other necessaries of life. I need not repeat the elaborate description given by my predecessor in his budget speech last year of the various measures adopted in tackling the food problem. The policy laid down in his time of buying up as much as possible of the local produce, and of procuring as much as possible from other parts of India—and indeed we have received consignments of wheat from Australia, of maize and maize-meal from South Africa and also milk from abroad—has been continued up to the present time, and although I cannot claim that the Government has been able to procure enough to satisfy peoples demands I do claim that we have been able to distribute a ration which has prevented starvation. I was however advised soon after I came to the State that signs of malnutrition were apparent, and the Government has been making efforts to deal with these symptoms—first by distributing supplies of milk to women and young children, secondly by providing mid-day meals in schools, and thirdly by increasing the number of Cochin Restaurants in different parts of the State, where people can obtain foods possibly unfamiliar but not unpalatable, at moderate prices. I do not claim that these measures have reached as many people as we should wish to reach. I am hoping before long to receive increased supplies of milk, and I am also hoping before long to get mid-day feeding started in more schools; but I think it is safe to say that the measures so far adopted have arrested the malnutrition which was becoming manifest. Another symptom of distress was a great increase in the number of beggars more particularly in the towns of Ernakulam, Mattancheri and Trichur. Hon'ble Members will remember that a committee has been studying this beggar relief question for some time; its report has recently been received, and a bill implementing the recommendations of the committee will be placed before the House in the course of this session. But the evil was becoming so intolerable that it seemed to me necessary to adopt emergency measures in anticipation of the consideration of the Beggar Relief Committee's report; and each of the three major Municipalities has now established beggars' homes where nearly 400 beggars of both sexes and all ages taken from the streets are housed, fed and looked after.

6. The Budget figures testify in no uncertain measure to the conditions which I have just described. The considerable increase of revenue anticipated this year as compared with the Budget Estimates are due in the main: first, to the greater revenue from Forests to which I have already referred; secondly, to larger receipts from Excess Profits Tax which, of course, reflect the greater volume of business being done; and thirdly to greater receipts from Abkari which again reflect the greater purchasing power in the hands of the poorer classes who so largely contribute to this revenue. The Government have from time to time considered how best to draw off the surplus monies which are available in such large quantity and which if left in the hands of the public are liable to do so much harm by further inflating prices. A certain amount of increased taxation was imposed last year, but proposals to increase stamp duties and court fees were rejected by the House during the course of this year, and the Government have decided to accept the decision of the House on this matter. We have started a savings drive which we hope will succeed in absorbing a considerable portion of the surplus funds of which people are in possesion. The drive was started a few weeks ago and has already resulted in the investment of over Rs. 15 lakhs in one form or another of defence savings. I hope that this campaign will be continued and intensified so long as the need continues. I also hope that the measures to check Hoarding and Profi eering which have been introduced will be vigorously and ruthlessly enforced so that the greedy few may not be able to batten on the needs of the many. Whether it will be necessary to adopt other measures the Government have not yet decided, but they are watching the situation very closely. The rise in prices does for the moment seem to be checked and there is if anything a downward tendency. If this downward tendency continues, it may be unnecessary to adopt any further measures; but if an upward tendency again declares itself, the Government will not hesitate to adopt such measures as may seem to be necessary to control the situation.

7. Let me now turn for a minute to the actual Budget figures. A year ago the Revised Estimate for the year 1118 anticipated a surplus of Rs. 13·66 lakhs. Actually the year closed with a surplus of Rs. 26·22 lakhs. The Government propose to place Rs. 20 lakhs from this surplus to the credit of the Revenue Reserve Fund which will thus be brought up to a total of over Rs. 50 lakhs. This sum and more will be required to finance various schemes which the Government are contemplating in connection with plans for post-war developments; and Hon'ble Members will, I am sure, agree that it is a wise policy to draw off surplus money which might otherwise be used to intensify inflation and to put it on one side to be spent as soon as prices fall to something more like normal. For the current year 1119 the Revised Estimate provides for a revenue of Rs. 209·34 lakhs as compared with the Budget Estimate of Rs. 185·39 lakhs, while

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there is also a corresponding increase in the estimates for expenditure which have risen from Rs. 166·88 lakhs in the Budget Estimate to Rs. 190·83 lakhs in the Revised Estimate. I have already indicated that the increased revenue is mainly due to greater receipts expected from Forests (Rs. 9·75 lakhs), Income-tax and Excess Profits Tax (Rs. 7 lakhs), and Abkari (Rs. 4·50 lakhs). The increase of expenditure is mainly accounted for by the increased rates of dearness allowance which we are now paying, by the grant of dearness allowance to small pensioners, by the increase of rates of T.A. to compensate Government servants for the greater cost of travelling, by a larger expenditure on the Forests which has led to the increased revenue which we now anticipate, to increased expenditure on the State Forces and finally to greater expenditure on public works due to the higher rates which must everywhere be paid. For the year 1120 the Budget Estimates contemplate a revenue of Rs. 218·69 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 9·36 lakhs as compared with the Revised Estimate for this year, and an expenditure on the revenue account of Rs. 202·09 lakhs; an increase of Rs. 11·26 lakhs as compared with the present year's Revised Estimate. The increased revenue is almost entirely accounted for by the very large increase of Abkari revenue (Rs. 21·70 lakhs), but against this must be set lower estimates than in the current year under Customs (Rs. 4·1 lakhs), Forests (Rs. 3·90 lakhs) and Miscellaneous (Rs. 5·25 lakhs). The principal increase in expenditure is under the Education Department and is mostly due to a large provision for the mid-day feeding of children. Otherwise the increased expenditure is mainly due to normal increase of the activities of various departments and to the increased rates of dearness allowance for which provision is made throughout the coming year. We expect a surplus balance of Rs. 16·60 lakhs at the end of the year in the revenue account.

8. The large advances which it has been necessary to make for the purchase of foodstuffs and standard cloth as also for the equipment and despatch of the labour units to Assam and Ceylon have from time to time caused a certain amount of anxiety to the Government and have put a considerable strain on our financial resources. Hitherto these operations have been financed by working on an overdraft obtained from the Central Bank of India, and the Government are anxiously considering whether this is the best and most economical method to provide the finance required or whether they should adopt some other means.

I am not sure whether Hon'ble Members appreciate the magnitude of these financial operations. The provision made for advances for the purchase of foodgrains in the Revised Estimate for this year is Rs. 5 crores, of which we expect to recover Rs. 490 lakhs before the end of the year. For next year we anticipate advances of Rs. 520 lakhs which should all be recovered during the year. We are also providing Rs. 30 lakhs for advances for the purchase of standard cloth and more than Rs. 40 lakhs, all of which we expect to recover during the year, for advances in connection with the equipment of labour units. These advances, of course, are not all required at one time; but in order to meet all the demands made upon the Government, it has been necessary in the course of the current year to raise the limit of overdraft from Rs. 50 lakhs first to Rs. 75 lakhs and later to Rs. 100 lakhs.

9. The House is naturally anxious for an assurance that these very large sums have been properly spent and I am extremely sorry that it is not yet possible to place before Hon'ble Members an audited statement of the Food Department's accounts for the year 1118. The delay in completing the audit of these accounts is partly due to the fact that some of the foreign purchase accounts have not yet been completed and partly to delay in adjusting the accounts as between one depot and another in the State. It must be remembered that when these operations were first undertaken the food situation was extremely grave and the one important thing was to move supplies as quickly as possible to the place at which they were most urgently needed. The importance of accurate book-peeping was perhaps not sufficiently appreciated at that time; and once accounts have been allowed to get into arrears it is one of the most difficult things in the world to bring them up-to-date. Good progress is however being made and I feel confident that it will not be long now before the audit of the accounts for the year 1118 can be completed and published. I am also hopeful that the accounts for the current year will be completed and audited and published at a much earlier date than has been possible in respect of the accounts for 1118. I may add that I have seen enough of the accounts for 1118 to assure the House that the transactions of that year did not result in any financial loss to the State.

10. Another matter upon which I know that Hon'ble Members have felt considerable anxiety is the extensive commitment undertaken last year for the cultivation of paddy and other foodstuffs in the hill areas. The area actually cultivated last year was 5,350 acres under paddy, 4,050 acres under tapioca, 1,215 acres under red gram, and about 600 acres under other crops, rather more than 11,000 acres in all. The amount spent in the two years has been Rs. 9·62

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lakhs. We have actually recovered up-to-date Rs. 55,000 and another Rs. 74,000 is awaiting adjustment; we should also receive a substantial sum this year from the sale of tapioca. The failure to realise anticipations to the full was due to the weather last year which seriously injured the crops of paddy and other grains. This cultivation has been continued this year but on a smaller scale and the Government instead of undertaking the cultivation themselves have decided to lease out these hill areas to private parties for cultivation. The latest reports which I have seen show that out of 5,880 acres available for lease about 3,500 acres have actually been leased, of which about 2,000 acres have been sown with paddy and the rest with other food crops.

11. The Government are doing what they can to encourage extension of cultivation in other areas as well as in these hill paddy areas. Hon'ble members will find that the budget contains provision for considerable expenditure on a number of irrigation schemes, the most important of which are the Chalakkudi scheme and the Kambalathara Eri scheme in the Chittur Taluk. Both these schemes have been under discussion for years. Provision was made for them both in the budget a year ago. Work on both schemes has been delayed by protracted discussions, in the one case with the Government of Travancore and in the other case with the Government of Madras. I am glad to say that in both cases the points in issue between this State and its neighbours have been very much narrowed down and I earnestly hope that it will be possible during the coming year to make a start with both schemes and to use to the full the provision which we have made in the Budget Estimates.

12. The opening of the first section of the Anamallais Road has not only opened up new areas for cultivation but has made possible the extraction of considerable quantities of timber from the forests through which the road runs. Considerable progress has been made on the road during the current year in spite of difficulties in securing adequate labour and in contending with malaria. The survey of the upper half of the road will shortly be started and work will, it is hoped, go on steadily throughout the coming year.

13. Another important operation which will be of permanent benefit to the State, although its immediate execution has been made necessary by war demands, is the improvement of the water supply from the Periyar river to Ernakulam and other places adjacent to Cochin Harbour. Under present conditions the benefit of this increased supply must almost entirely go to Willingdon Island; but as soon as the military demand abates it will be possible to ensure better supplies both to Ernakulam and to Mattancheri. It has also been necessary in order to comply with military demands to increase the supply of electricity. This increased supply also will be a permanent asset to the State as soon as it can be diverted from military to civil purposes.

14. I now turn to the subject of post-war reconstruction, upon which I know Hon'ble Members are anxious to hear what the Government are planning and what they are doing to implement those plans. As Hon'ble Members are aware this Government have only very recently appointed an officer to work out these plans, but they have not been altogether idle even before the officer was appointed. Two conferences have been held at which various schemes were discussed and certain tentative conclusions reached. I think the proceedings of these conferences have been laid upon the table of the House and no doubt Hon'ble Members are aware of what these conferences achieved. The special officer is now engaged in preparing definite schemes on the lines laid down by these conferences, and I hope to be able from time to time to inform the House as to the progress of these schemes. Meanwhile, I should like to take this opportunity of letting Hon'ble Members know something of my own views regarding the possibilities for developments in this State. I understand the expression post-war reconstruction to mean the provision after the war of better conditions of life for all the subjects of the State than they have hitherto enjoyed. Our survey of the needs and the possibilities of development must cover the whole country and make provision for the rural as well as for the urban population; and, as the rural population is by far the most numerous, I consider that their claims should have the first call upon the Government's activities and resources. Holding as I do that a sound education must be the foundation of any real improvement in the standard of living, I have considered our educational system, and there is one respect in which I am convinced that great improvement is required. It seems to me that provision for the training of teachers has not kept pace with the expansion of primary and secondary education in this State; and where schools are manned by men and women who have not been taught how to teach I am afraid that there is great danger that our system of education, extensive as it is, may be a delusion and a sham. It is to my mind essential that we should at once make full provision for the training in the State of the full number of teachers required for all the schools, both Government and aided, which are at present responsible for the education of the youth of the population.

15. Among the plans which are being considered is one for the establishment as soon as

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possible after the war of a technological institution which it is hoped may continue those educational facilities which have been so very extensively developed during the war by the numerous centres of technical training which have been set up all over the country. This is a matter in which His Highness is particularly interested and he has given proof of his interest by allotting no less than Rs. 70,000, out of a sum of one lakh of rupees which was recently presented to him, for the provision of technological classes in the Maharaja's College here.

16. I consider also, and here I hope I am not encroaching too far upon my Hon'ble colleague the Minister's departments, that there is immense scope for the improvement and development of the work of our Department of Agriculture. I should like to see in the Central Farm a well-equipped research institute providing opportunities for numbers of young men to concentrate on the study of the various crops, of the various soils and of different methods of improving the yield of the crops and the fertility of the soil. I should like to see a really model dairy showing the people of the State how such an institution should be run and run at a profit and supplying dairy produce in sufficient quantities to meet all demands. I should like to see in different parts of the State agricultural demonstrators at work on experimental plots showing the results to be obtained by the application of methods learned at the research institute in the Central Farm. We have already made a start in demonstrating the possibilities of fruit and vegitable cultivation on the unoccupied land on the Nelliampathy Hills. I hope this experimental demonstration will be so successful as to induce many others to follow the Government's example.

17. As regards industrial development I should welcome all offers from private enterprise to start new industries. I suggest that it may be desirable to conduct a complete survey of the possibilities of such development so that information may be available for all interested parties regarding the raw materials available, their quality and their quantity. Water and power are essential for industrial development, and the availability of these should also be comprehended within the scope of the survey. Government, as Hon'ble Members are well aware, has its own scheme for hydro-electric development and is already in correspondence with the Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India regarding arrangements to procure the materials and plant necessary for its establishment at as early a date as possible after the war. Another direction in which I suggest that there is great scope for development is the fishing industry, and I hope that our post-war plans will include provision for its development. Meanwhile I see no reason why the possibilities of this development should not be investigated at once.

18. For the improvement of the standard of living of the people, improvement of public health is urgently called for. Large tracts of fertile land have been left unoccupied owing to the severe incidence of malaria. It is well known now that malaria is a scourge which can be removed and I am glad to say that this Government has already made a start by seeking advice from experts in tropical diseases who have successfully dealt with malaria in other parts of the country. I hope that by determined and maintained efforts it may be possible to free considerable tracts in the State from malaria and thereby enable them to be brought under cultivation. Soon after I came to the State it was brought to my notice that certain portions were very badly affected with hookworm. The Medical and Public Health Departments have been conducting a systematic campaign against this disease for the last few months. The need for this campaign will be manifest when I say that in some places as large a percentage as 90 of the population were found to be infected. To enable these departments to complete their work the campaign is to be continued for another six monhs, when the matter will again be reviewed and measures to keep the area free from infection will be considered and if possible applied.

19. We have also been considering the improvement of communications by road, by rail and by canal. Generally speaking the State is well served with roads and the chief scope for development in this direction is by improving their surfaces. Plans are being laid to carry out this object. I have already mentioned the Anamallais Road which will open up great expanses of our richest forests and provide a quick means of communication between the Estates on the Anamallai Hills and the Port of Cochin. There are possibilities for the construction of more roads in these forest areas. As regards rail communication, it seems to me absolutely necessary that the harbour should be linked up with the metre guage system which serves the southern part of the Madras Province. It is only about 40 miles from Kollengode to Trichur; a survey has already been made and I earnestly hope that it will be possible to complete this bit of railway as soon as materials become available after the war. A railway from Quilon to Ernakulam was also surveyed some years ago, and I propose to discuss with the Travancore Government the desirability of carrying out this work also. There are various suggestions for the improvement of canals which are calculated to facilitate transport of men and of goods, and these are being systematically

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examined and listed, and those which promise a reasonable prospect of success will be included in our programme.

20. Fina'ly we do not wish altogether to ignore the towns, and among our plans for immediate development after the war are water supply and drainage schemes for the three major towns in the State, none of which is really properly served in this respect at present. I do not pretend that this is a complete catalogue of all possible plans of reconstruction; but I hope that I have said enough to convince Hon'ble Members that I am alive to the need for development in different directions. I am also alive to the need for associating members of this House with the Government's plans for reconstruction. Whether this can best be done by periodical reports to the House which will give opportunity for a full-dress debate on the subject, or whether it would be better to appoint a few representative members of the House to a Reconstruction Committee whose proceedings should be placed on the table of the House, or whether there are other better methods of establishing contact between the Government and members of this House regarding this matter—these questions are still under consideration. I believe that, in a matter of such grave importance as this planning for the whole future development of the State, all sections of the population should have the opportunity to inform themselves of what is being done and to make suggestions or criticisms.

21. But Hon'ble Members will realise that these are matters for the future. For the moment, un il the war comes to an end, our principal duty is to maintain our war activities at their highest pitch. I am grateful for all that Hon'ble Members of this House are doing in this direction, and I would only ask them to maintain these activities until the war ends. We still have to meet calls for recruits from the fighting services, from the State Forces, from labour units and from technicians, and these demands must be met in full. There is still need to carry on propaganda regarding the course of the war, regarding the continued need for war work, the need for men and the need for supplies. The National War Front has in the past played a great part in steadying and strengthening the morale of the population. That work is still as necessary as it has ever been. Now that the war is going well there is perhaps the danger that people will slacken their efforts thinking that the need for exertion is over. That is the road, if not to defeat, certainly to a prolongation of the war. It is only by maintaining our war activities at the highest pitch that we can expect the war to be over soon. The National War Front can do much to spread this spirit among the people. And I must say a word about the recently formed Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Board, the object of which is to look after the families of men away on active service and to look after the interests of the men themselves. This Board has a large part to play in fostering morale and encouraging recruitment, for by letting everybody see that the soldier or sailor or airmen and his family are being looked after by an active and vigorous Board, more men will be induced to come forward as recruits. I appeal to everyone who is engaged in any form of war work to maintain his efforts and to increase them, for the nearer we come to victory the greater is the need for concentration of effort.

22. I should to like to acknowledge on behalf of the State Government the great help which the Government has received in these difficult times from the Resident for the Madras States and through him from the Government of India. The Resident has been unsparing in his attempts to secure for the State supplies of things of which we are short and to represent our difficulties to the Government of India. I also wish to express my satisfaction at the cordial relations which continue to exist between this State and its next-door neighbours, Madras and Travancore. The relations have been maintained on a friendly footing throughout the past year and it is obviously for the benefit of all concerned that these good relations should continue. Certainly this Government will do everything in its power to maintain the existing friendly relations.

23. Now it only remains for me to say that the deliberations of this House in this coming session are fraught with great possibilities for the benefit of the people of the State. I am sure that Hon'ble Members will take full advantage of these possibilities and so conduct the business of the House that it may redound to the credit and satisfaction of His Highness the Maharaja and of all his subjects.

PANEL OF CHAIRMAN—ANNOUNCEMENT OF

Mr. President: I now have to announce that I have appointed to the Panel of Chairmen Mr. P. P. Devassy and Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait.

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